

H.R. 1577: VA Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act

## **Background:**

One of VA's top procurement goals is to achieve savings through competition, but there is currently no uniformity in how the savings are calculated or whether they are recorded at all, since individual offices determine these numbers according to local policy. When offices do measure the money they have saved through competition, there is no surefire way to judge the number's veracity.

The VA Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act would encourage efficiency and transparency in VA's procurement processes by mandating high-level parameters for how the department calculates its savings from encouraging competition when awarding procurement contracts. This legislation also directs VA to organize its templates for key documents that are vital to contracting officers' day-to-day work and put them in a central place accessible to all of the department's procurement offices.

## The Message:

- Encouraging competition when awarding procurement contracts generates financial savings for VA.
- VA currently does not have a uniform system for calculating savings earned from competition.
- This bill would encourage efficiency and transparency in VA's procurement process by creating a uniform system for calculating the department's savings from competition when awarding contracts.